

## CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of forming metal oxide powders, comprising the steps of:

solid state mixing of at least one metal nitrate salt and at least one reducing organic acid having a potential of  $> -0.957$  volts at standard conditions for an electron generating reaction with water to reduce said nitrate and heating to a temperature in a first temperature range to form a metal oxide precursor complex comprising said metal,  
and

heating said ~~metal nitrate salt and said reducing organic acid~~ metal oxide precursor complex to a temperature of at least  $200^{\circ}\text{C}$  but no more than  $1200^{\circ}\text{C}$ , wherein a metal oxide powder is formed.

2. Cancelled

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said heating said metal oxide precursor complex is performed in an oxygen containing atmosphere.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said organic acid is a hydroxy acid.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said hydroxy acid comprises tartaric acid or citric acid.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein an average particle size of said metal oxide powder is from 10 to 100 nm.

7. Cancelled

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein said first ~~temperate range heating step~~ is performed at a temperature from 200 to 400 °C.

9. Cancel

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~2~~, further comprising the step of grinding said metal oxide precursor complex before said heating said metal oxide precursor complex ~~second heating~~ step.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said metal oxide includes at least one phosphor.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said metal oxide includes at least one ion conducting metal oxide.

13. (New) A method of forming metal oxide powders, comprising the steps of:

solid state mixing two different metal nitrate salt and at least one reducing organic acid, and

heating said metal nitrate salts and said reducing organic acid, wherein a mixed metal oxide powder is formed.